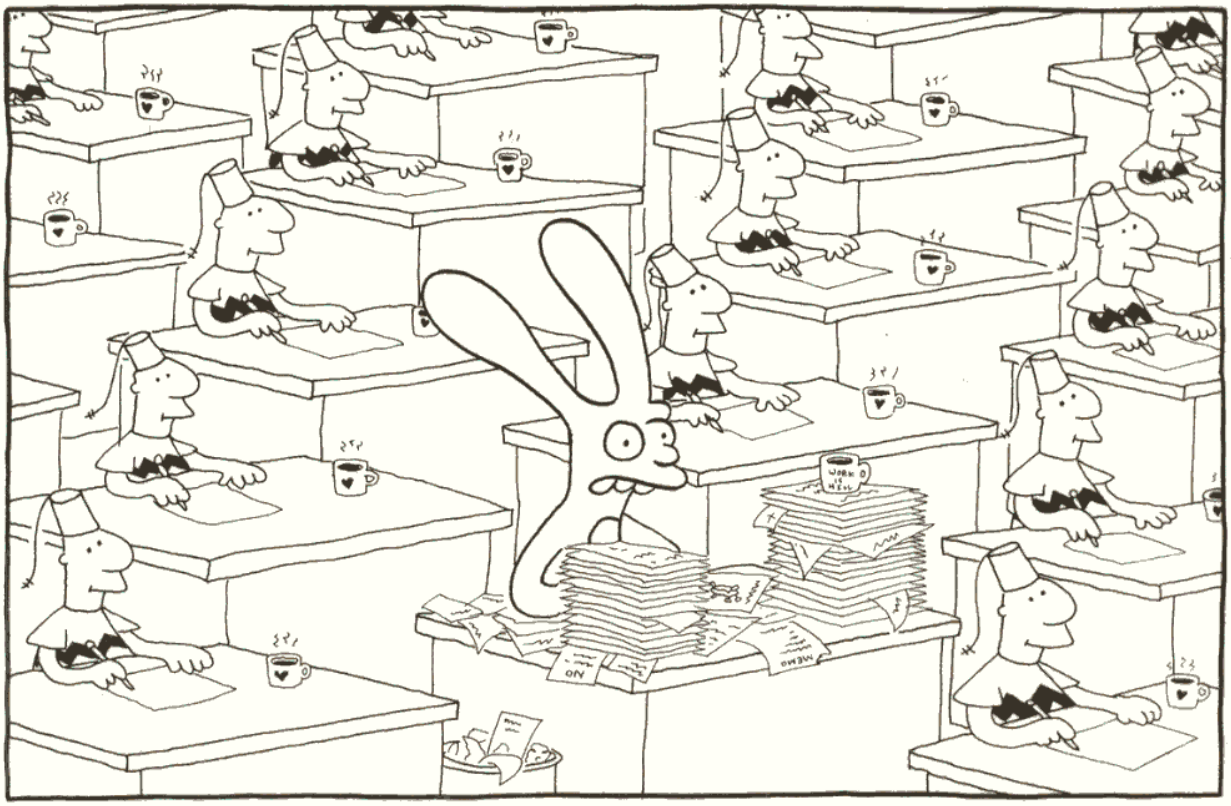
WORK IS HELL



A CARTOON BOOK BY

MATT GROENING

AUTHOR OF *LOVE IS HELL*

OTHER BOOKS BY MATT GROENING

LOVE IS HELL

SCHOOL IS HELL™

CHILDHOOD IS HELL

AKBAR & JEFF'S GUIDE TO LIFE

BOOKS BY MATT GROENING THAT APPEARED SOLELY IN THE AUTHOR'S DREAMS

PEOPLE ARE CRUNCHY

EVERYONE FOOLS THEIR OWN SELF

DEDICATED TO MY SISTERS PATTY, LISA, AND MAGGIE, AND MY BROTHER MARK

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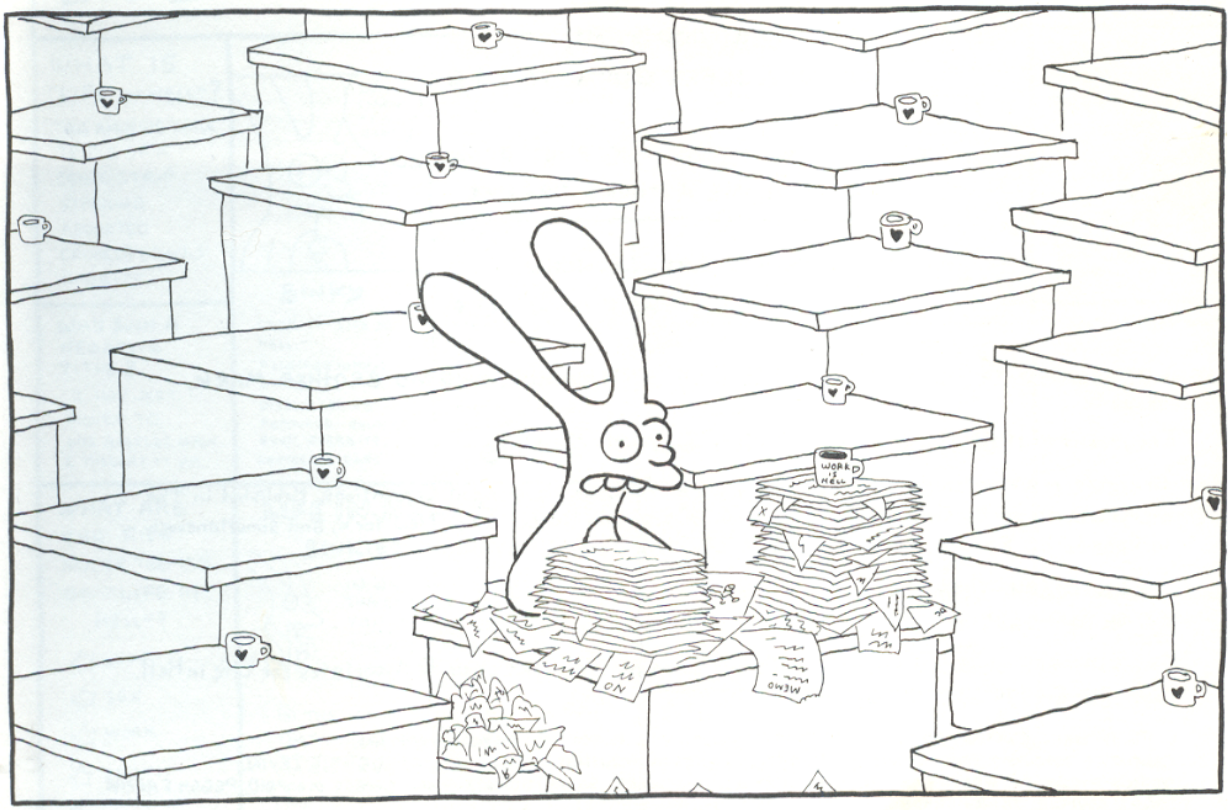

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QUICK-- WHILE THE BOSS ISN'T LOOKING-- CHECK OUT THIS CUTE AND CUDDLY 10-PART CARTOON MINISERIES.

WORK IS HELL

CHAPTER 1: UP AND AT 'EM!

PSST!

WARNING

CHUCKLING TOO INTENSELY AT THIS COMIC STRIP COULD RESULT IN EARLY TERMINATION

QUESTIONS

WHAT DO I WANT TO BE IF I GROW UP? WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO HIRE ME? WHAT IF I MAKE THE WRONG CAREER CHOICE? WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE MY JOB? HOW COME I HAVE SUCH BAD LUCK? HOW CAN I GET RICH? DOES LIFE HAVE TO BE THIS TEDIOUS? WHEN IS MY COFFEE BREAK? WHY ME?

ANSWER: GET BACK TO WORK.

THE FACE OF WORK

STRANGE SENSATION THAT TIME HAS SLOWED TO A CRAWL AND YET YOUR WHOLE LIFE IS PASSING BEFORE YOUR EYES

SUPPRESSED RAGE

THROBBING HEADACHE

VACANT LOOK

BAGS UNDER EYES

THE SNIFFLES

SCALDED TONGUE

BAD BREATH

PERMANENT SLOUCH

LOWER BACK PAIN

RECTAL ITCH

READ 'EM. MEMORIZE 'EM. FILE 'EM.

WORK PROVERBS

IT'S A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD OUT THERE.

TIME IS MONEY.

YOU CAN'T GET HIRED UNTIL YOU'RE EXPERIENCED, AND YOU CAN'T GET EXPERIENCED UNTIL YOU'RE HIRED.

A RAISE? YOU'RE LUCKY WE DON'T FIRE YOU.

GET BACK TO WORK.

BASIC WORK TOOLS

YOU WILL NEED:

A SCARY ALARM CLOCK

HOT SLUDGY COFFEE

CARCINOGENIC SWEETENER (FOR COFFEE)

A BIG SMILE

THE BENEFITS OF WORK

VACATION

PAYCHECK

YESSIR

RIGHT AWAY SIR

A JOB WELL DONE

HUMILITY

EARLY GRAVE

ETERNAL PEACE

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE NEXT CUBICLE WHO THINKS JUST LIKE YOU.

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN LAST IN THIS PLACE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU CAN LAST IN THIS PLACE EITHER.

WORKER'S DIARY

MON	TUE	WED
Got up. Went to work. Came home. Watched TV. Went to bed.	Got up. Went to work. Came home. Watched TV. Went to bed.	Got up. Went to work. Came home. Watched TV. Went to bed.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Got up. Went to work. Came home. Watched TV. Went to bed.	Got up. Went to work. Cashed paycheck. Came home. Got drunk.	Don't remember.	Don't remember.

JUST REMEMBER:

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT

YOU CAN LUMP IT.

NEXT: MORE OF THE SAME.

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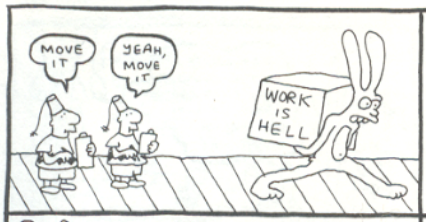
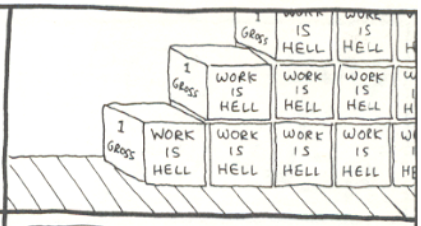


CHAPTER 2:

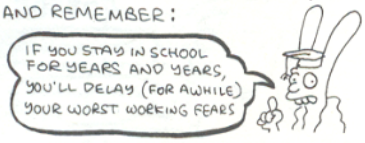
HOW TO FACE UP TO YOUR FIRST JOB



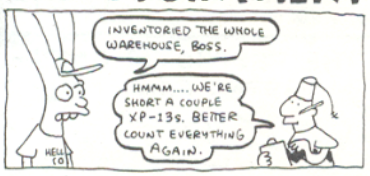
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU HEARD THAT WISE OLD RHYME? PLENTY, WE BET. AND THERE'S A REASON.

SCHOOL IS GOOD. SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT. SCHOOLS PREPARES YOU FOR THE FUTURE. BY SITTING QUIETLY IN NEAT ROWS FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME DOING EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE TOLD IN SCHOOL, YOU ARE PREPARING TO SIT QUIETLY IN NEAT ROWS FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME DOING EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE TOLD AS AN ADULT.

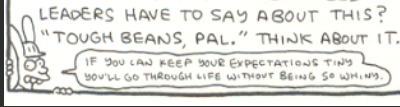
AND REMEMBER:



PREPARE FOR DISAPPOINTMENT



THAT'S RIGHT. WORK IS NOT ALL GRAVY AND BONUS POINTS. AT MOMENTS IT CAN BE FRUSTRATING, DEGRADING, AND DOWNRIGHT IRKSOME. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TOP BUSINESS LEADERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS? "TOUGH BEANS, PAL." THINK ABOUT IT.



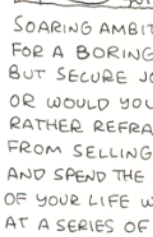
WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DO FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

DON'T TAKE THIS QUESTION LIGHTLY. THE ANSWER COULD VERY WELL AFFECT YOUR ENTIRE FUTURE.

DO YOU TAKE PLEASURE IN ADDING UP COLUMN AFTER COLUMN OF MEANINGLESS NUMBERS, OR IS YOUR IDEA OF A GOOD TIME WADING THROUGH MOUNTAINS OF BUREAUCRATIC GIBBERISH?

DO YOU ENJOY UTTERLY MINDLESS HEAVY MANUAL LABOR, OR WOULD YOU RATHER SIT ON YOUR BUTT BEHIND A DESK FOR DECADES WHILE YOUR ATERIES HARDEN AND YOUR MUSCLES TURN TO MUSH?

DO YOU WANT TO WORK IN AN OFFICE FULL OF DEVIOUS, BITTER, NERVOUS WRECKS WHO ALL RESENT EACH OTHER, OR WOULD YOU RATHER TOIL ALONE IN A WINDOWLESS ROOM WITH NO DISTRACTIONS AND BE WATCHED BY A SECURITY CAMERA?



DO YOU ENJOY BEING BULLIED BY SEVERAL SMALL BOSSES, OR WOULD YOU RATHER BE BULLIED BY ONE BIG BOSS?

ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE UP ALL YOUR YOUTHFUL WILD DREAMS AND SOARING AMBITIONS FOR A BORING BUT SECURE JOB, OR WOULD YOU RATHER REFRAIN FROM SELLING OUT AND SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WORKING AT A SERIES OF WORTHLESS, MARGINAL JOBS WITH NO FUTURE ON THE SLIM CHANCE THAT SOMEDAY YOUR LUCK WILL MIRACULOUSLY CHANGE?

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS

1. GET A JOB.
2. GET A BETTER JOB.
3. GET AN EVEN BETTER JOB.

REPEAT IF NECESSARY

NEXT: THE NINE TYPES OF BOSSES

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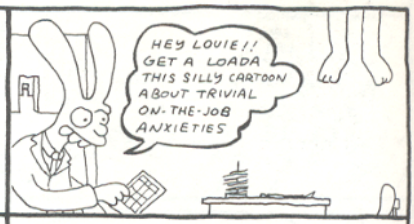
WORK IS HELL

CHAPTER 3: THE 9 TYPES OF BOSSES



"THE ANGRY BEHEMOTH"

ALSO KNOWN AS: THE APE, MR. TANTRUM, GRUMPY, THE GROUCH, OL' FLARING NOSTRILS.
HOW TO HANDLE: HIDE, MAKE SNICKERING REMARKS TO CO-WORKERS.
WARNING: STUPIDER THAN S/HE LOOKS.

"THE ROBOT FROM PLANET X"

ALSO KNOWN AS: THE BUREAUCRAT, THE WATCHER, THE THING WITH THE X-RAY EYES, THE LIVING DEAD, ICE MACHINE, ZOMBIE (OR ZOMBINA)
HOW TO HANDLE: CONCEAL ALL FEELINGS.
WARNING: CONTAGIOUS.

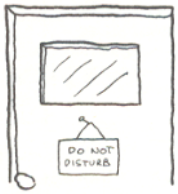
"MR. SOFTY"

ALSO KNOWN AS: WHATSITSNAME, SQUISHY, THE PUSHOVER, JELLYFISH, MOVING TARGET.
HOW TO HANDLE: GENTLY.
WARNING: CAUSES DROWSINESS.

"THE SLIPPERY EEL"

ALSO KNOWN AS: THE MANIPULATOR, THE LIAR, THE SNEAK, THE GENIUS.
HOW TO HANDLE: RUN FOR YOUR LIFE.
WARNING: S/HE'S EVERYWHERE.

"THE GREAT UNKNOWN"



ALSO KNOWN AS: THE LURKING UNKNOWN, THE CREEPING UNKNOWN, THE HIDING UNKNOWN.
HOW TO HANDLE: WATCH AND WAIT.
WARNING: BITES WHEN CORNERED.

"THE SPITTING COBRA"

ALSO KNOWN AS: THE SNAPPING TURTLE, POISON IVY, THE PESKY IRRITANT, OH NO.
HOW TO HANDLE: BOIL WITH RAGE (SILENTLY).
WARNING: YOUR HEAD MAY EXPLODE.

"THE HORNY TOAD"

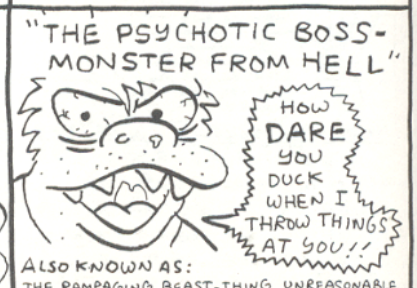
ALSO KNOWN AS: SLEAZEBUCKET, SLIMEBALL, SCUMBAG, HANDSOME DEVIL.
HOW TO HANDLE: SAY FERGIT IT.
WARNING: COULD RESULT IN TERMINATION, OR WORSE--MARRIAGE.

"WONDER BOSS"

GOOD NEWS, EVERYONE. BECAUSE OF A GREAT YEAR OF FUN AND PROFITS, I HAVE HEFTY BONUSES AND A GENEROUS PROFIT-SHARING PLAN FOR ALL OF YOU!

ALSO KNOWN AS: I DON'T BELIEVE IT, GOD, PERFECTION, WHAT A GUY (OR GAL)
HOW TO HANDLE: THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND.
WARNING: COULD BE THE SLIPPERY EEL IN DISGUISE.

"THE PSYCHOTIC BOSS-MONSTER FROM HELL"



ALSO KNOWN AS: THE RAMPAGING BEAST-THING, UNREASONABLE, HERE COMES TROUBLE, YESSIR RIGHT AWAY SIR.
HOW TO HANDLE: COWER, HOPE FOR HEART ATTACK.
WARNING: DON'T LET IT SEE THIS CARTOON.

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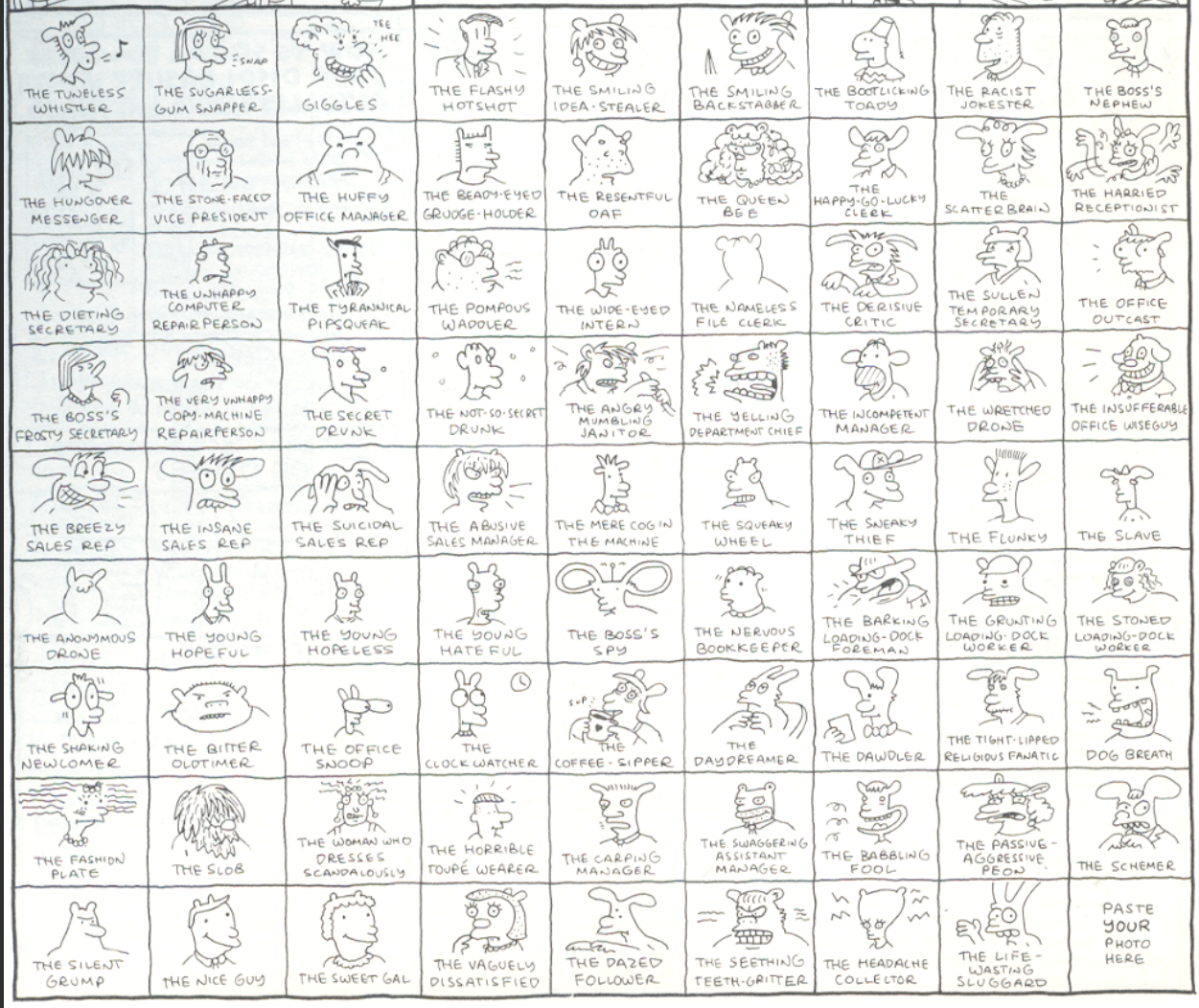
CHAPTER 4: THE 81 TYPES OF EMPLOYEES



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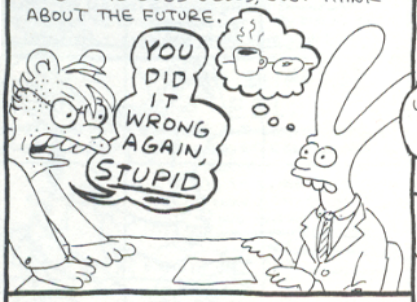
CHAPTER 5: HOW TO GET ALONG WITH ALL THE JERKS AT YOUR CRUMMY JOB

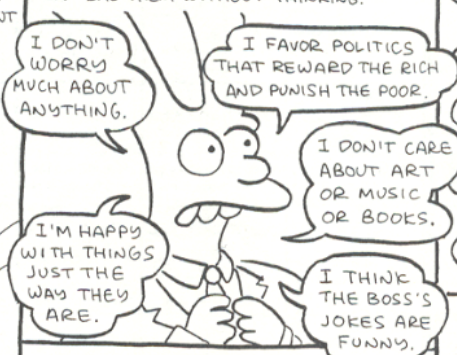
KEEP YOUR BOSS HAPPY

BOSSES HAVE NEEDS, TOO. THEY NEED TO INSULT YOU, DEGRADE YOU, TREAT YOU LIKE A CHILD, AND HUMILIATE YOU IN FRONT OF YOUR CO-WORKERS. DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY. JUST LEARN TO CONCEAL YOUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, OPINIONS, HOPES, AND AMBITIONS, AND YOU'LL PROBABLY DO OKAY.
WHEN THE BOSS YELLS, JUST THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE.



BE THE PERFECT EMPLOYEE

PRACTICE THESE SENTENCES UNTIL YOU CAN SAY THEM WITHOUT THINKING.


I DON'T WORRY MUCH ABOUT ANYTHING.
I FAVOR POLITICS THAT REWARD THE RICH AND PUNISH THE POOR.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ART OR MUSIC OR BOOKS.
I'M HAPPY WITH THINGS JUST THE WAY THEY ARE.
I THINK THE BOSS'S JOKES ARE FUNNY.

HOW TO SHOW A CO-WORKER YOUR DISPLEASURE WITHOUT ACTUALLY SAYING ANYTHING

1. STIFFEN YOUR BODY WHEN APPROACHED.
2. PURSE YOUR LIPS.
3. BECOME SUDDENLY ENTRANCED IN YOUR OWN WORK.
4. DRAW AIR ABRUPTLY INTO YOUR NOSE, CREATING A SUBTLE BUT DISTINCTIVE SNIFFING EFFECT.
5. WALK OUT OF THE ROOM AS IF YOU'VE GOT A BROOM UP YOUR ASS.

YOU CAN AFFECT THE MOODS OF OTHERS

SHARE THE GOOD TIMES

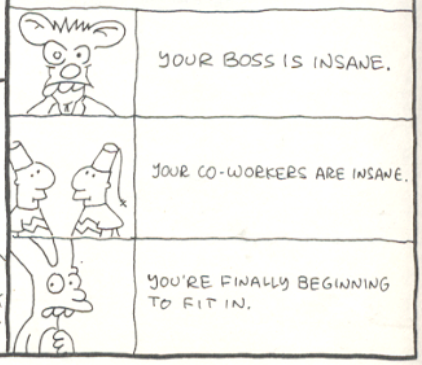
SHARE THE BAD TIMES

I--I JUST GOT FIRED.
GEE, THAT'S ROUGH.
LET'S MEET AT RANDOM ON THE STREET SEVERAL YEARS FROM NOW AND NOT REMEMBER EACH OTHER'S NAME.

HOW TO DECODE YOUR CO-WORKERS' INSIPID CHATTER

WHEN THEY SAY:	THEY REALLY MEAN:
YOU LOOK CHEERFUL THIS MORNING.	WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?
GEE, THE BOSS SURE CHEWED YOU OUT.	HA HA HA HA HA HA
G'NIGHT, EVERYBODY! HAVE A GOOD ONE! SEE YOU TOMORROW!	GO FUCK YOURSELVES.

IN CONCLUSION:



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CHAPTER 6: JUST HOW BAD IS YOUR JOB?

BAD JOB CHECKLIST

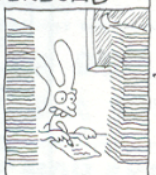
PLACE AN "X" IN EACH APPROPRIATE BOX. USE YOUR OWN PENCIL. PLEASE DO NOT CRUMPLE THIS CHECKLIST. IT IS ONLY A CARTOON.

1. HEALTH

- ☐ WORK WITH DANGEROUS, NOXIOUS CHEMICALS
- ☐ WORK WITH DANGEROUS, NOXIOUS CO-WORKERS

2. WORK OVERLOAD

- ☐ LAUGHABLY UNREALISTIC DEADLINES
- ☐ WORK IS PILED ON UNTIL YOUR HEAD EXPLODES



3. WORK UNDERLOAD

- ☐ REQUIRED ~~TO LOOK BUSY~~ WHEN THERE'S NOTHING TO DO
- ☐ BRAIN IS ATROPHYING FROM IDLENESS

4. TIME PRESSURES

- ☐ HAVE TO WORK TOO FAST
- ☐ HAVE TO WORK TOO SLOW
- ☐ HAVE TO WORK LIKE A MACHINE
- ☐ DON'T HAVE TIME TO FINISH THIS CHECKLIST

5. SECURITY

- ☐ THREAT OF BEING FIRED OR LAID OFF DANGLED OVER YOUR HEAD
- ☐ RIDICULOUS HEALTH PLAN
- ☐ PREPOSTEROUS PENSION PLAN
- ☐ PETITE FINANCIAL REWARDS

6. CO-WORKERS

- ☐ UNFRIENDLY CO-WORKERS
- ☐ MALICIOUS CO-WORKERS
- ☐ CO-WORKERS EVEN MORE SCREWED UP THAN YOU

7. BOREDOM

- ☐ JOB REQUIRES THE BRAINS OF A SLOW CHIMP
- ☐ WORK SEEMS POINTLESS
- ☐ JOB REQUIRES TEDIOUS TASKS BE DONE OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND

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WORK IS HELL FUN QUIZ

WHICH BREAKFAST WILL GIVE YOU MORE ENERGY?

THIS ONE?

OR THIS ONE?

CHAPTER 7:

HOW TO GET A RAISE

OR HUMILIATE YOURSELF TRYING

REMEMBER THESE DO NOTS

DO NOT BE MODEST.

DO NOT BE BOASTFUL.

DO NOT WHIMPER.

DO NOT SNIVEL.

DO NOT YELL.

DO NOT SASS BACK.

IF YOU DO NOT SUCCEED AT FIRST, GO HAVE A DONUT.

PLOYS YOU MIGHT TRY

WHATEVER YOU THINK IS FAIR.

JUST KIDDING.

OH, NEVER MIND.

IT WAS JUST A THOUGHT.

I DON'T MIND WAITING SEVERAL MONTHS FOR AN ANSWER.

YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU WANT MORE MONEY?

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, ANYWAY?

ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME MAD?

PUT IT IN WRITING.

RESPONSES YOU'LL NO DOUBT GET

I'M TOTALLY AT YOUR MERCY.

SURE I'M LOYAL. I'M SO LOYAL I WON'T EVEN LOOK FOR ANOTHER JOB IF YOU SAY NO.

GOSH, I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW. I GUESS I'M JUST SELFISH.

IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME THAT MONEY, YOU'LL BE SORRY.

FORGET I EVEN BROUGHT IT UP.

I'M HERE TO ASK FOR A RAISE, SIR.

VERY FUNNY. NOW GET BACK TO WORK.

HELLO

I SHOULD FIRE YOU RIGHT NOW, BUT IF YOU DON'T MENTION IT AGAIN, I'LL LET IT PASS.

ASK ME AGAIN IN A FEW MONTHS.

ASK ME AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

I'M GOING TO PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT.

THERE'S NO MONEY IN THE BUDGET FOR SUCH FRIVOLITIES.

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE.

I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW. COME BACK LATER.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?

I NEED THAT MONEY TO PLAY THE LOTTERY.

I MUST ADMIT I'M AFRAID OF YOU.

PRETTY PLEASE?

PARDON ME FOR BOTHERING YOU. I'LL JUST TIPTOE BACK TO WORK NOW.

I MUST HAVE MORE MONEY RIGHT NOW.

YOU'RE FIRED.

GLAD YOU STOPPED BY. THE ANSWER IS NO.

RAISES COME FASTER IF YOU DON'T ASK FOR THEM.

I'M IN A VERY BAD MOOD RIGHT NOW. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DISCUSS THIS?

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CHAPTER 8:

SO YOU GOT YOURSELF FIRED

THE PAINFUL HUMILIATION OF IT ALL

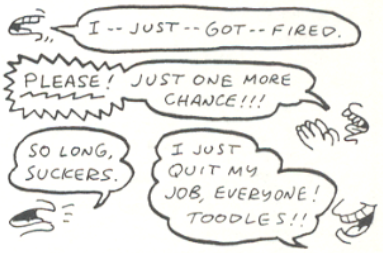
GETTING SACKED. RECEIVING THE BOOT. GETTING KICKED OUT. GOING ON A PERMANENT VACATION. GETTING THE AXE. RECEIVING ONE'S WALKING PAPERS. GETTING THE PINK SLIP. HAVING THE ROLLERS PUT UNDER YOU. GETTING DEJOBBED.

THEY ALL MEAN JUST ONE THING.

YOU ARE DEAD MEAT ON A STICK.

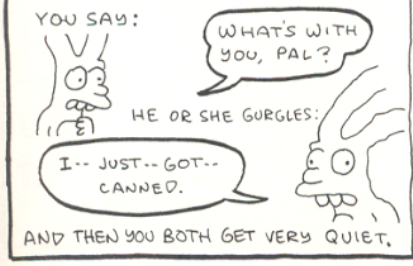
FIG. ONE. TYPICAL.

THINGS TO SAY IF YOU JUST GOT FIRED



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMEONE GET FIRED?

IT'S NOT A PRETTY SIGHT. THE VICTIM STAGGERS JERKILY FORWARD WITH A STRANGE GLASSY LOOK, AS IF IN ACUTE SHOCK, EXTREME SHAME, UTTER CONFUSION, OR A COMBO PLATTER OF ALL THREE.



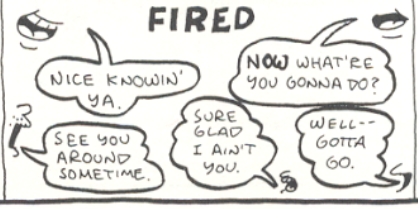
AND THEN YOU BOTH GET VERY QUIET.

REMEMBER:

THE PERSON WHO HAS BEEN FIRED IS PROBABLY UPSET. DO NOT EXPECT NORMAL BEHAVIOR -- JUST TRY TO STAY CLEAR. IF THE PERSON WHO HAS BEEN FIRED IS YOU, YOU MUST REALIZE YOU ARE OUT OF YOUR GODDAMNED MIND. DO NOT DO ANYTHING RASH. DO NOT:

- ☐ KILL YOURSELF. ☐ KILL YOUR BOSS.
- ☐ KILL EVERYONE YOU WORK WITH, EVEN THE RECEPTIONIST WHO WAS ALWAYS NICE TO YOU.
- ☐ KILL YOUR FAMILY. ☐ KILL YOUR PETS.

THINGS TO SAY TO A PERSON WHO'S JUST BEEN FIRED

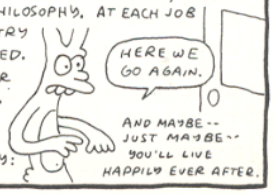


NOW WHAT?

YOU'RE OUT ON YOUR ASS AND FEELING LOUSY. BUT DON'T LOSE YOUR SELF-RESPECT, WHATEVER YOU DO. CRAWL AWAY WITH DIGNITY AND WEEP AND MOAN IN THE PRIVACY OF THE HOME YOU CAN SUDDENLY NO LONGER AFFORD. THINGS ARE NOT TOTALLY HOPELESS. THEY JUST SEEM THAT WAY. AND THEY WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO SEEM THAT WAY FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

BUCK UP!

IT'S TIME TO GET ANOTHER JOB. THIS TIME, CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE. GROVEL A BIT MORE. DEVELOP A POSITIVE, GO-WITH-THE-FLOW PHILOSOPHY. AT EACH JOB INTERVIEW, TRY TO BE RELAXED. DON'T APPEAR OVERANXIOUS. ADOPT A CAREFREE OUTLOOK, SAY:



LIFE IN HELL

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WORK IS HELL

GRRR

CHAPTER 9:
HOW TO TELL EVERYONE OFF, GO INTO BUSINESS FOR YOURSELF, BE COMPLETELY FULFILLED, AND STARVE TO DEATH

GRRREAT TIE YOU HAVE ON THIS MORNIN', BOSS.

THERE YOU SIT

AT YOUR DESK, SEETHING AND STEWING, WHILE A VAGUE, UNNAMEABLE SENSATION EATS AWAY AT YOU. IT'S NOT QUITE NAUSEA, IT'S NOT QUITE SUFFOCATION --JUST A SORT OF SICKLY FEELING IN THE GUT, LIKE MAYBE LIFE IS PASSING YOU BY, AND YOU ARE TRAPPED--

TRAPPED BY CRUEL FATE, BY THE GREED OF OTHERS, BY AN UNFAIR ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AND BY YOUR OWN CUDDLY NICENESS. BUT DEEP DOWN YOU HAVE A WHOLE SLEW OF SHAMEFUL YEARNINGS--DON'T DENY IT--AND ONE OF THOSE SECRET DESIRES IS TO TELL EVERYONE TO GO STRAIGHT TO HELL AND GO INTO BUSINESS FOR YOURSELF. "I'M FED UP WITH THIS HORRIBLE SITUATION I FIND MYSELF IN," YOU WHISPER TO YOURSELF, MAKING SURE NO ONE CAN SEE YOUR LIPS MOVING. "I WANT TO BE MY OWN BOSS FOR ONCE!" YOU SCREAM IN THE SILENCE OF YOUR OWN FEVERISH BRAIN, MAKING SURE NO ONE CAN SEE YOUR HEAD THROB. YOU FEEL HARASSED FROM ABOVE BY CONTEMPTUOUS SUPERIORS, AND PECKED AT FROM BELOW BY CONNIVING SUBORDINATES WHO WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SEE YOU FAIL. BUT THAT AIN'T A-GOIN' TO HAPPEN! YOU'LL SHOW 'EM!!

YOU'LL SHOW ALL OF 'EM!!! ALL YOUR SO-CALLED FRIENDS, EVEN THAT HIGH-SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR WHO TOLD YOU TO THINK SMALL--AND ESPECIALLY YOUR PARENTS!!

BUT WAIT!!! WHAT IF--WHAT IF YOU DO FAIL?? THEN THEY'D BE RIGHT--THEY TOLD YOU IT WOULD NEVER WORK, THEY TOLD YOU TO DO WHAT YOU WERE TOLD, THEY WHO LAUGHED BEHIND YOUR BACK ARE NOW LAUGHING IN FRONT OF YOUR FACE!!!

(WHAT A HORRIBLE THOUGHT.)

BETTER JUST TRY TO FIT IN AND DO YOUR JOB! IT'S NOT SO BAD HERE! YOU'VE GOT A MIGHTY GENEROUS PENSION PLAN, A MODICUM OF PRESTIGE, AND IF YOU HANG AROUND FOR 11 MORE MONTHS, YOU'LL GET A TIDY LITTLE BONUS!! AND YET--AND YET STILL YOU FEEL RESTLESS. YOU'LL BE GOD-DAMNED IF YOU'LL SIT THROUGH ANOTHER POINTLESS COMMITTEE MEETING, LISTENING TO TO THOSE IDIOTS BABBLE ON AND ON AND ON AND ON AND ON. YOU'RE NO WORM! YOU WERE MEANT FOR ADVENTURE AND INDEPENDENCE! HOW THE HELL DID YOU END UP IN THIS PREDICAMENT, ANYWAY? WHAT COULD YOU HAVE POSSIBLY DONE TO DESERVE THIS?

IT'S TIME TO PACK IT ALL IN AND GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!! IT'S TIME TO TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE!! IT'S TIME TO BE A FULL-FLEDGED AUTONOMOUS HUMAN BEING!!! IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK--COFFEE BREAK'S OVER.

NEXT: WORK IS HELL--THE DEPRESSING CONCLUSION

LIFE IN HELL

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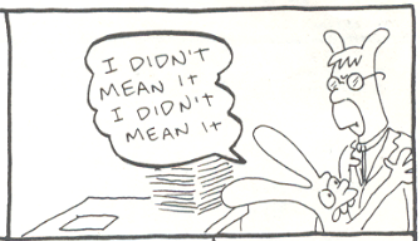
CHAPTER 10 (FINAL CHAPTER): THE GAME OF WORK



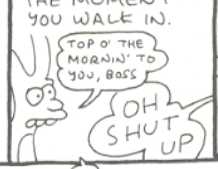
YOUR BED

BEGIN AND END HERE

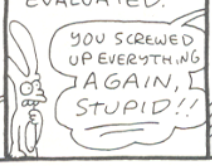
LATE AGAIN

GULP DOWN A CUP OF SCALDING INSTANT COFFEE, RUN OUT THE DOOR IN A DISHEVELED STATE, FIGHT THE MORNING TRAFFIC JAM, AND ARRIVE AT WORK COMPLETELY FRAZZLED WITH ONLY EIGHT HOURS TO GO.

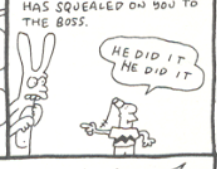
GET SCREAMED AT THE MOMENT YOU WALK IN.



GET YOUR WORK EVALUATED.



DISCOVER THE TREACHERY OF A CO-WORKER WHO HAS SQUEALED ON YOU TO THE BOSS.



COFFEE BREAK!

FIGHT TRAFFIC ALL THE WAY HOME. EAT A LOUSY DINNER, FIGHT WITH YOUR SPOUSE, FALL ASLEEP WATCHING TV, AND STAGGER OFF TO BED WHERE YOU CAN HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT WORK.

IT'S TWO OR THREE HOURS TILL QUITTING TIME. START WINDING DOWN, TIDYING UP YOUR DESK, STRETCHING, GABBING, AND THINKIN' ABOUT DINNER.

CONDUCT A SECRET LOVE AFFAIR WITH ONE OF YOUR CO-WORKERS, MAKING SURE YOU NEVER GET CAUGHT. WITHIN TWO WEEKS, REALIZE EVERYONE IN THE OFFICE KNOWS.

OR

WORK—THE GAME

YOU CAN PLAY ALONE, OR WITH ANY NUMBER OF SO-CALLED FRIENDS.

YOU WILL NEED

PAIR O' DICE

A SMALL INSIGNIFICANT OBJECT TO REPRESENT YOU

RULES

TAKE TURNS GOING AROUND AND AROUND AND ARDUND AND AROUND THE BOARD. THE OLDEST PLAYER ROLLS FIRST. THE RICHEST PLAYER STANDS BY, WATCHING AND LAUGHING.

CHEATING IS ENCOURAGED, BUT DON'T GET CAUGHT. YOU MAY SUFFER SEVERE PENALTIES.

PLAYING FAIR IS TOLERATED, BUT DON'T GET CAUGHT. YOU MAY SUFFER SEVERE PENALTIES.

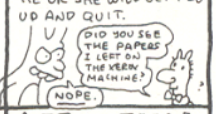
THE GAME IS OVER WHEN YOU DIE.

BLAME SOMEONE ELSE FOR YOUR MISTAKES.

GET PARANOID

ARE THEY TRYING TO MAKE YOU MISERABLE SO YOU'LL GET FED UP AND QUIT?

START A PLOT AGAINST A CO-WORKER TO MAKE HIM OR HER SO PARANOID AND MISERABLE THAT HE OR SHE WILL GET FED UP AND QUIT.



BECOME PARALYZED BY DISSATISFACTION, PESSIMISM, AND HOSTILITY

LAUGH WEAKLY AT ONE OF THE BOSS'S UNFUNNY JOKES.

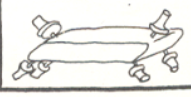
LUNCH

TASTELESS SALAD AND SUGARLESS GUM,
— OR —
GREASY BURGER AND A COUPLE OF BEERS?

SPACE OUT FOR A FEW MINUTES.

SNAP BACK TO REALITY AND HOPE NO ONE HAS NOTICED.

USING ONLY SOME PUSHPINS AND AN ERASER, MAKE YOURSELF A LITTLE PIG!!!



AFFLICTION CORNER

CHOOSE ONE:

- ☐ HEADACHES.
- ☐ ULCERS.
- ☐ EXHAUSTION.
- ☐ DEPRESSION.
- ☐ VOICES IN YOUR HEAD.